

Docket No. 10014406-3

Remarks

This Amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action of April 12, 2006.
Reexamination and reconsideration of claims 2-8, 10-14, 16-20, 23, 25 is respectfully requested.

Summary of The Office Action

Independent Claims 8, 14, and 20 stand Allowed.

Claims 1-2, 9-10, 15-16, 21-22, 24, 26-27 rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Wade et al. (US 6,290,333).

Claims 4, 6-7, 11-13, 17-19, 23, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wade et al. (US 6,290,333) in view of Saul (EP 1080898 A2).

Claims 3, 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wade et al. (US 6,290,333) in view of Shiraishi et al. (US 6,186,611).

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wade et al. (US 6,290,333) in view of Saul (EP 1080898 A2), as applied to claim 4, and further in view of Shiraishi et al. (US 6,186,611).

The Present Amendment

The present amendment cancels all rejected independent claims. Thus, only allowed independent claims 8, 14, and 20 remain. Selected dependent claims have been amended to change their dependencies to one of the allowed independent claims. Thus, no new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully requests that the present amendment be entered since it places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, all remaining claims should now be in condition for allowance.

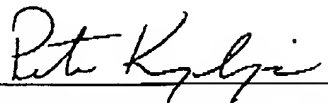
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Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, **claims 2-8, 10-14, 16-20, 23, and 25** patentably and unobviously distinguish over the references of record and are now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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